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Approved For Release 2004/02/11 : CIA-RDP78-04546A000600020002-4

5 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion With OBGI Personnel re Procurement of Still
Photography

Participants:

[Redacted box]

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1. The meeting with OBGI personnel resulted from OBGI dissatisfaction with the ground photography available for use in an NIS General Survey on Algeria specifically, and in general for other reports. I had suggested to [redacted] that we meet so that I could explain to him the range of sources available to DPSD to procure still photography.

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2. It developed that an OBGI review of the master photo file on Algeria showed four photos of potential value and one of these had been used in the NIS now being revised. [redacted] indicated that this situation is generally true for all areas. [redacted] said that some personnel from other government agencies who write NIS studies had stopped reviewing the master photo file because of its lack of adequate and pertinent photography. She specifically mentioned Department of Commerce. I told [redacted] that viewing the photo file and then leaving without making their requirements known contributed to the lack of adequate collection since those responsible were not aware of the inadequacies of the file and of the customers needs. I suggested that in every such case that they should discuss their needs with the pertinent ISG analyst. I also pointed out that the analyst may have non-accessioned photography in a dossier that might not be available to the customer unless he discussed his needs with the analyst.

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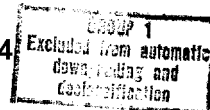
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3. I reviewed all sources of photography both domestic and foreign and discussed the possibility of obtaining photos from film and videotape. However, I pointed out that adequate lead time was necessary to obtain photography from many of these sources since only [redacted] and films and videotapes on hand were under our direct control. I did state that with the wide range of sources available and adequate lead time it was highly unlikely we would be unable to obtain photography on any given area or subject.

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4. [] presented an NIS Production Schedule for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1971 and all of Fiscal Year 1972, a schedule that should fill the DPSD need for sufficient lead time. [] indicated that almost nothing was available on some areas and mentioned Korea specifically. I informed him of the monitoring of [] a new source of photography that should become productive within two months.

5. [] asked what our reaction would be if OBGI were to have an employee sit in the CRS for the purpose of selecting photos for the OBGI. He said that the C/OBGI was very anxious to update photography available and was prepared to assist. After some discussion it was decided that perhaps two people would share the duty, spending one to two days weekly in the CRS. We also agreed that this individual could prepare caption reports. I told [] that the idea had considerable appeal and that I would discuss it with my superiors and would talk with him later on this subject.

6. I asked [] whether OBGI was interested in color photography. He said that they were very interested but had recently been told not to move into this areas at the present time. He assumed that this was because of the cost factor and believed the restriction came from the DDI level. He did, however, say that there was a strong desire to use color photography and after some discussion also pointed out that when picturing persons, vegetation, etc., much more could be conveyed by color photos. I told [] that we had recently made some inquiries into color photos and that the cost differences may not be as great as it would appear to be on the surface. I told him that I would pursue this and would also attempt to determine what the increased cost would be in terms of the number of NIS reports published by OBGI. [] said that the average run for the NIS was 500 reports.

7. [] said that the present system of having the photography behind the barrier worked a hardship on her since she had to accompany non-Agency customers who were not properly cleared. I explained to her the reason for this concentration and the one point service concept that resulted in the present organization. I also explained the present CRS organization and the relative responsibilities of the SSG and the ISG.

8. I informed the C/SSG of the above and we notified the Director and Deputy Director/CRS. The D/CRS had no objection to the stationing of an OBGI employee in CRS to select photography. However, he did request that this be discussed with the C/ISG.

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[]
Chief, Document and Pictorial Services Division

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